from internationalization of the economy. Larger size also entails better management of risk.

Pending excise duty cases

2159. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 55,000 cases involving excise duty of Rs. 23,276 crore were pending as on 31st March, 2004 with different authorities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 8369 cases are pending for more than five years;

(c) if so, measures taken to expedite adjudication of these cases; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to fix time-limit for adjudication of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per C&AG's report No. 11 of 2005 (Indirect Taxes—Central Excise and Service Tax), a total of 54,560 cases, involving excise duty of Rs. 23,275.77 crore were pending finalization as on 31st March, 2004 with different authorities, which included departmental officers, Commissioner (Appeals), Tribunal, High Courts and Supreme Court. Out of these, 8369 cases were pending for more than five years.

(c) Disposal of cases pending before various authorities is a continuous process. While old cases are disposed off, new cases crop up. The following steps have been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of cases:—

(i) Continuous monitoring of cases pending before different authorities.

(ii) Filing of applications before different appellate authorities for disposal/early hearing of cases.

(iii) Legislative provision has been made to ensure early disposal

of the cases by prescribing a limit of maximum three adjournments of hearings by departmental adjudicating officers/ Tribunal.

(iv) A dedicated unit e.g. Tax Arrears Recovery Cell has been created to oversee, monitor and coordinate the disposal of appeal cases and realization of related revenue.

(v) Departmental adjudicating officers have been asked to undertake faster disposal of adjudication cases.

(d) In the Central Excise Act, 1944, provisions have been made that where it is possible to do so, Commissioner (Appeals) and Tribunal shall hear and decide every appeal within a period of six months and three years respectively, from the date of filing of appeal. There is no fresh proposal pending consideration at this stage.

Financial package to revamp co-operative sector question

2160. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 15,000 crore financial package has been worked out to re-vamp the Co-operative sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the contribution proposed to be made by the State Governments and the Co-operative banks, in accordance with recommendations of the Vaidyanathan panel; and

(c) the details of steps taken to fine-tune the regulatory control exercised by the Registrar of Co-operatives so as to ensure the continued financial health of the Co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In order to revitalize the co-operative credit structure, the report of the Task Force under Prof. A Vaidyanathan with regard to short term cooperative credit structure has been accepted in principle for implementation in consultation with State Governments. An interactive session with State Governments on the report was held on 9th September, 2005. Further, another discussion was held